FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 DECEMBER 1986

Israel

"Authoritative sources" cited by *Ma'Ariv* 10 December stated that the issue of U.S.-Israeli cooperation in supplying arms to Iran was raised in talks between President Reagan and Shim'on Peres when the latter visited Washington during his tenure as prime minister. The sources voiced "surprise" at the contention that Reagan knew nothing about the issue, stressing that "Jerusalem did not even for one moment doubt that all the levels of the administration in Washington were aware of what was happening. However, Peres subsequently denied reports that he held a "secret meeting" with Reagan on arms shipments to Iran, stressing that all his meetings with the president were "absolutely open," IDF radio reported.

According to *Hatzofe*, Israeli officials have decided not to furnish any details about the arms shipments to Iran which might "embarrass or incriminate" the Reagan administration.

Iran

USSR Relations — Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani criticized Soviet support for Iraq during talks with visiting Soviet official Konstantin Katushev, stating that the Soviet Union is "unfortunately" strengthening "the aggressor country" for reasons which are "unacceptable" to Iran, Tehran radio reported. The Soviet authorities are acting "in a different manner" from the Americans, who are prepared to "solve" Iran's "arms problems" if the latter shows "flexibility," he asserted. Iran "decisively rejected" the American advances, he said, but the Soviet media misrepresented the U.S.-Iran affair. While the USSR depicted the affair as an Iranian attempt to prolong the Iran-Iraq war at U.S. behest, it should have referred to Iran's "move" as a "great victory scored by a Third World country." The Majlis speaker also told Katushev that the Soviet Union is "unfortunately complicating the issue" in Afghanistan. Nevertheless, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed thanks for the Soviet Union's declared intention to expand bilateral relations, and he stressed Iran's readiness to expand relations if the Soviet Union is "serious" in this regard.

Katushev, the chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, had earlier begun economic cooperation talks at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs in Tehran, according to the radio, which noted that the two sides are expected to sign a new economic cooperation protocol 11 December. The Iranian finance minister viewed the talks as a "positive step," the radio noted, and he indicated Iran's desire to improve transport arrangements between the two countries and step up industrial and scientific cooperation. Katushev also met with the Iranian minister of mines and metals, the radio said, noting that the latter stressed the need to overcome problems at the Esfahan steel works and that Katushev gave a "favorable promise" in this regard.

Mehdi Hashemi Affair — All but one of the charges against Mehdi Hashemi and "other affiliated individuals" have been substantiated and it has become clear that these accusations are only half of the offenses committed by them, the Intelligence Ministry announced in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio. The statement listed the names of nine members of Hashemi's group who are still at large. The radio also reported on a television interview in which Hashemi admitted to "gross deviations" and "standing up against the imam." On his association with Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, Hashemi said that his group had used Montazeri's office as a base and that it had abused the confidence placed in it by "the illustrious canonist," adding that this caused the group's "subjective and groundless analyses" to be attributed to Montazeri's office.

Montazeri subsequently announced that Hashemi had "no role whatsoever" in his office or affiliated schools, adding that Hashemi's remarks on this subject are "categorically denied," according to the radio. Montazeri also met with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Qom to discuss "various issues of the country," IRNA disclosed.

Oil for Syria — The Majlis approved a "top priority" bill providing for the free delivery of 1 million metric tons of oil to Syria, Tehran radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian shelling of Basra killed 3 civilians and wounded 10 others, according to an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn toured the city 9 December, the radio noted.

Lebanon

Beirut radio reported that the Iranian plan to end the camps war still stands, adding that the Palestinians will withdraw from Maghdushah when a convoy carrying provisions arrives in Al-Rashidiyah camp. The radio said the relief convoy was on its way to Al-Rashidiyah 10 December, adding that PNSF and Hizballah officials were expected to arrive in Maghdushah to begin the withdrawal. Fighting had continued in Maghdushah and Beirut the previous day, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, which reported that 20 people were killed and 65 wounded.

Arab foreign ministers and their representatives announced that they will reconvene their emergency session in Tunis 15 December in order to follow up the situation at the Palestinian camps and take "practical and effective" measures, KUNA reported. Their statement called for an immediate end to the fighting and to the siege of the camps. PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas expressed dissatisfaction with the outcome of the meeting, KUNA said, and he stressed that the next session

must take "practical measures" to end the fighting and guarantee Palestinian rights in Lebanon.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak left for Paris at the start of a European tour 10 December, MENA reported. In another development, the interior minister denied a press report that the security service has arrested six people on charges of leaking economic and military information to Israel and the United States, MENA noted.

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Najibullah To Visit USSR This Month

LD091311 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 1130 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, 9 Dec BAKHTAR — Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee will pay an official and friendly visit to the Soviet Union during December of the current year at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee and the Supreme Soviet Presidium of the USSR.

Former President Reported Under House Arrest

OW100946 Beijing XINHUA in English 0747 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, December 10 (XINHUA) — Former Afghan PresidentBabrak Karmal has been put under house arrest in Kabul, local newspapers reported today.

The papers said that Karmal was not permitted to meet anyone at his residence which is heavily guarded by security men.

He was subjected to torture due to his persistent refusal to accept offer for his appointment as Afghan ambassador to any country in Eastern Europe, according to the reports.

Karmal resigned from all party and government offices last month.

Polish Party Delegation Arrives 8 Dec

LD081746 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Comrade Wiodzimierz Mokrzyszczak, member of the Politburo of the Polish United Worker's Party [PZPR] Central Committee and chairman of the PZPR Central Control and Auditing Commission, heading a high-ranking delegation from Poland, arrived in Kabul this morning at the invitation of the PDPA Central Committee, for a friendly visit of the DRA.

Comrade Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Comrade Abdorrashid Arain, head of Control and Auditing Section of the party Central Committee; and Comrade Stanislaw Bugala, the ambassador of People's Republic of Poland in Afghanistan welcomed Comrade Mokrzyszczak and his accompanied delegation at Kabul International Airport.

According to another report the delegation this afternoon visited the memorial to the martyrs of the path of revolution, paid their respects, and laid a wreath.

Meets With PDPA Officials

LD100628 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, December 9, BAKHTAR — Mahmud Barialay, alternate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA CC, 'Abdorrashid Aryan, the head of the Control and Supervision Section of the PDPA CC as well as Dastagir Panjsheri, member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Writers' Union of the DRA, had separate meetings with a high-ranking party delegation of the Polish People's Republic, headed by Wlodzimierz Mokrzyszczak, Politburo member and head of Control and Investigation Section of the Polish United Workers' Party, PUWP.

Both sides discussed and exchanged views on matters of mutual interests in an atmosphere of friendship and sincerity.

The Polish party delegation is here for a friendly visit at the invitation of the Central Committee of People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

'Heavy Loss of Life' Reported for Rebels

LD091739 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] The savage and criminal counterevolutionaries, who had been trying to establish their satanical dens for some time in the Turan region, Helmand Province and had embarked on plundering the properties and goods of the innocent people of Helmand Province, were recently brought to their knees after suffering heavy loss of life.

A BIA military correspondent reported that seven villages in the Turan region were purged of the enemy and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition, which had been stored in the arm caches by the counterrevolutionaries to cause disruption in the peaceful life of our compatriots, were seized by the security forces of the country.

The report adds that recently as a result of the courageous assaults mounted by the troops, NCO's, and officers of the Armed Forces against the satanical dens of the counterrevolutionary bands during the past few days in various parts of the country — including Qandahar, Herat, Nangarhar, and Kapisa Provinces — shattering blows have been dealt at the enemy, a large number of traitors to the homeland, people, and revolution along with a number of their ringleaders have been crushed and our toiling people have been freed from the persecution of these criminals and murderers.

'Guerrillas' Shoot Down Jets, Helicopters

BK091436 Hong Hong AFP in English 1419 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 9 (AFP) — Afghan guerrillas operating with "new weapons" shot down at least six Soviet-made jets and helicopters last week, killing more than 40 troops, Western diplomats here reported Tuesday.

The anti-Marxist rebels also raided an ammunition depot in the Pol-e-Charkhi area and seized a large arsenal stored in Kabul, they said.

In the south east Qandahar Province last week, guerrillas killed 82 Soviet-Afghan soldiers and ambushed two trucks loaded with Afghan secret service men, killing 40 KHAD agents, the diplomats said.

They added that the mujahidin also stepped up activity in Kabul, moving in a large number of rebels with new fast-shooting Oerlikon cannons, effective against planes. The rebels are also reported to have shoulder-carried Stinger missiles.

The diplomats said that on November 30 a mujahidin missile downed a Soviet military transport aircraft near Kabul. The plane hit near Mahi Par, limped to an area just east of Kabul airport and crash-landed. Five people parachuted to safety but 40 troops, mostly Soviet, died in the crash, the diplomats said.

Two SU-25 planes were also downed east of Kabul last week but details were not available.

The diplomats said the mujahidin also shot down three more helicopters, at Arghandeh and Pol-e-Charkhi near Kabul and over the northern Jabal os Saraj hills earlier this week.

They had no casualty figures for these incidents.

Congress-S Leader Defies Congress-I Merger

BK091632 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] The Congress-S leader, Mdr Unikrishnan, said the decision to join the Congress-I has been taken by a group of people and not by the party. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi this evening, he said his party continues to maintain its identity as a national party.

First Mig-29's To Arrive From USSR in Dec

BK091536 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 23 Nov 86 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 22 (UNI) The first batch of MiG-29 fighter aircraft is to arrive from the Soviet Union early next month.

A team of eight Indian Air Force pilots and six maintenance engineers are undergoing conversion training at Frunze base with the Soviet Air Force MiG-29 squadrons.

The aircraft were originally scheduled to start arriving in April-May next year but the USSR has expedited the deliveries as production of these aircraft has picked up there.

India is expected to acquire two squadrons of MiG-29's in semiknocked down condition and then assemble them at Nashik's plant of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL).

India thus becomes the first country outside the USSR to get the MiG-29.

A contract for purchase of MiG-29 aircraft was signed by an Indian defence delegation in Moscow in the middle of this year and the delivery schedules and the question of its licensed manufacture at HAL were firmed up during the recent visit of Minister of State for Defence Arun Singh.

The Indian MiG-29's would be equipped with medium range air-to-air missiles (NATO codenamed AA-10) [and] have the latest pulse doppler radar, giving it look-down capability.

This radar will give the MiG-29 formidable air defence capability enabling it to pick up low flying targets with great precision and less chances of its being jammed.

Defence experts said the MiG-29 would have tremendous advantage over the F-16's of Pakistan.

Further Reportage on Violence in Karnataka

Minister Urges Living in Peace

BK091303 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has appealed to the people of Karnataka to live in peace and not to be misled by antisocial elements. He was making a statement [in Rajya Sabha] on the situation in the state arising out of protest against publication of a story in a section of the press. The minister said the center is in constant touch with the state government and asked for complete details in the matter. The state government has already initiated some administrative action and a judicial enquiry has been ordered. It is learnt that the editor and the publisher of the newspaper have been arrested. Measures for relief are also reported to be in hand. The chief minister has been requested to ensure that such provocative publications do not reoccur and he has assured the center that steps will be taken in this regard.

The home minister said that he has spoken to the chief minister and the governor. Both of them have assured him that all steps are being taken to restore law and order and bring about normalcy. The center is also being in touch with the leaders of the Muslim community in Bangalore and have assured them full protection and action against those who are out to vitiate the atmosphere of communal harmony. The home minister also appealed to the Muslim leaders to accept the unconditional apology of the editor. Mr Buta Singh said that according to information 15 persons were killed in Bangalore and Mysore as a result of police firing.

A similar statement was read out by the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, in the Lok Sabha.

Violence Spreads; Deaths Rise to 16

BK091630 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Violence in Karnataka has spread to new areas with one more person dying in police firing. In Tumkur today, police fired at a mob indulging in violence. With this, death toll in police firing and other violent incidents in the state has risen to 16; 11 people have been killed in Bangalore and 4 in Mysore in the last 2 days. The violence was sparked off by the publication of a short story in a local newspaper last Sunday.

In Mysore, a dusk to dawn curfew has been reimposed in view of the tense situation following sporadic incidents of violence this morning. Prohibitory orders have been enforced on several cities and towns, including Belgaum, Dharwar, Tumkur, and Chikmagalur. Schools, colleges, and businesses remained closed in the trouble-torn areas. Buses were also off the road in Gulbarga where bundh [strike] was observed today.

Bangalore city was relatively calm with no incident of violence reported since late last night. The state chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, hsas warned warned that the government will not tolerate any act of violence by any community. He appealed to the people to maintain peace. [passage omitted]

The KPCCI [Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee — I] president and MP, Mr Oscar Farnandis, has said the police action in many parts of Karnataka in the last 2 days was unprovoked. The PCCI, which met in Bangalore today, has appealed to all sections of the community to cooperate in establishing peace and harmony.

'Most Citites' Under Control

BK100340 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] In Karnataka, the situation in most of the cities and towns which witnessed violence during the last 3 days is under control. No incident has been reported from Mysore, Tumkur, and Bangalore. The director general of police, Mr Nizamuddin, told our Bangalore correspondent that prohibitory orders have, however, been clamped at Hubli, Belgaum, Raichur, and (Bidur) cities as a precautionary measure. In Mysore the dusk to dawn curfew was imposed in sensitive areas for the second time yesterday. The home minister, Mr B. Rachaiah and the rural development minister, Mr Abdul Nazir Sab, went round Mysore city last night to persuade the leaders of all communities to cooperate with the authorities to bring the situation back to normal. The chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, the state Congress-I chief, Mr Oscar Fernandes, and the Lok Sabha member from Bangalore, Mr Jaffar Sharief, have appealed to the people to help restore peace in the disturbed areas.

Meanwhile, the management of the daily newspaper which published the story that led to the violence has announced compensation of 25,000 rupees each to the bereaved families and 12,000 rupees each to the injured.

DMK Members Arrested for Damaging Constitution

BK091637 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] The DMK president, Mr Karunanidhi, and 200 others were arrested in Madras today for burning copies of part 17 of the Constitution. This was part of the DMK's anti-Hindi agitation.

'Political Initiative' Needed in Punjab

BK091540 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
4 Dec 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Bankruptcy of Ideas"]

[Text] There is no mistaking the anger and anguish that have been expressed in Parliament, in the press, and among people at large over the events in Punjab in the last few days. It is, of course, easy to understand, and it is a remarkable testimony to the maturity of the average Indian, particularly in areas close to Punjab, that in spite of the provocation posed by the bus killings in Hoshiarpur, there has been no retaliatory violence. Reassuring though this is, there is no longer any doubt that the initiative has gone back to the terrorists, and twist and turn as it might on the hook of the Punjab problem, the Government now exhibits a bankruptcy of ideas. This, in turn, has given rise to a creeping sense of frustration, that in spite of everything, the terrorist problem in Punjab simply refuses to come under control. Such a situation is tailor-made for disaster, and cannot be allowed to continue. Not that it is easy to come up with solutions. Far from it. But it is time the Government changed its tack substantially and began to prepare public opinion to learn to live with a protracted problem. This means doing several things.

First, it means putting an end to statements that give rise to expectations of a quick breakthrough, of peace being around the corner, a settlement at the most within a few months. Such indications have been frequently given by persons in responsible positions, and hopes have been built up centering around this or that initiative. One doesn't need to go very far back to recognise this. The appointment of Mr J.F. Ribeiro as the police chief, for instance, was one such occasion. The more effective sealing of the border and the killing of a larger number of people crossing it illegally, were given out as fresh reasons for hope. The better apprehension of terrorists, the success that Mr Ribeiro has seemingly had — until very recently — was yet another indicator portrayed as evidence that the problem was coming under control.

Now, in Parliament more stringent measures have been promised. Perhaps the authorities, both in New Delhi and Chandigarh, were under pressure to do something, but the first actions — the arrest of Mr Tohra and Mr Badal — that have followed the Hoshiarpur killings smack of panic. No reasons have been given, and if they have to do with the alleged links they are said to have with terrorists, then clearly the arrests should have been made long ago. Coming on the heels of Mr Tohra's election as SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee] president, the arrests are likely to raise new, more difficult problems. All this suggests the second imperative, that the fire-fighting approach of the past year has to be replaced with a genuine plan of action which seeks to achieve certain goals and tries to lay down some ways of doing so. Not since the Punjab Accord more or less crumbled on Republic Day this year has there been anything remotely resembling a well-thought-out strategy on what needs to be done. For a start, the Accord must not be written off. It may not now produce the expected results, but the commitments contained in it such as territorial transfers and the water problem are still valid.

The third adjustment the Government must make is to stop treating the Punjab problem primarily as a law and order problem. Mr Ribeiro and his men need all the support and encouragement to keep the terrorists on the run, to catch them, and to keep innocent people out of harm's way. But, as has been pointed out frequently in these columns, in the absence of a political initiative, Mr Ribeiro can never be the answer to the Punjab problem. And it is precisely this, an effective political initiative, that has been lacking since the collapse of the Accord earlier this year. The Government has depended heavily on the ability of the police to contain terrorism and apprehend terrorists. Congress (I) rank and file have made occasional morale-boosting and peace-making forays, but the Centre has done little more than rely on the Barnala government for political action. Since the Accord is dormant, the Akalis split, and Barnala beleaguered, there has been virtually no political activity to counter the pull of the terrorists and the ideologues.

The fourth imperative in all this is to clearly distinguish between essentially Akali problems and those created by the terrorists. There is no doubt that there are elements in the Akali ranks which have a symbiotic relationship with the terrorists. But the terrorists are a law unto themselves, and even if these links are broken and the culprits brought to book, terrorism will not cease. Obviously, those who give succour to killers must be punished,

and those who provide moral and material support to terrorists cannot be allowed to remain free. But if the Barnala government is to be allowed to do its job, which it must as the legally-constituted authority in Punjab, then there is every need to work towards bringing about Akali unity, roping in all those who keep the terrorists at arm's length and making whatever just compromises may be necessary to bring this about. If the snipping at the man in power stops, if the State Government is strengthened, if the more extreme among the Akali ranks are isolated or exposed, it will be that much easier to exert political pressure in the State. Punjab is a problem which demands that all the concerned parties act together, whatever their political colour.

Paper Views Delhi Declaration, Appeal for Peace

BK091532 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 28 Nov 86 p 10

[Editorial: "Coalition for Peace"]

[Text] The Delhi Declaration on nuclear disarmament and peace signed by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi "on behalf of the more than one billion men, women, and children" of India and the Soviet Union reflects the deepest concern and aspirations of the overwhelming majority of humankind. The joint appeal is unlikely to cause the nuclear powers to roll up their lethal blueprints, let alone dismantle their deadly stockpiles. Similar appeals have been made in recent years, chiefly by the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] and the six-nation five-continent disarmament group. However, what lends added significance to the Delhi Declaration is the fact that one of the signatories is a superpower which, along with the other superpower, the United States, holds the key to a safer, saner world. The Soviet participation in the appeal becomes the more credible in view of Moscow's consistent support to NAM and the Six-nation Group and the fact that it unilaterally imposed a moratorium on nuclear weapon testing last year and continues to abstain even as the United States has not only rejected the various international initiatives in this regard but continues to conduct such tests.

The ten principles set out in the Delhi Declaration enlarge the principles underlying panchsheel [Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence] and other widely endorsed canons of peaceful co-existence. Of the most immediate significance is the action plan suggested in the declaration. It calls for agreements on complete destruction of nuclear arsenals before the end of the century, banning of all weapons from outer space which must be treated as the common heritage of mankind, banning of all nuclear weapons tests and of new instruments of mass destruction as well as of chemical weapons and destruction of their stockpiles and, finally, reducing the levels of conventional arms and armed forces. Given the present realities, the superpower rivalries, the hostile perceptions with regard to other nations, the powerful military-industrial interests involved in the arms race — given all this, the blueprint for peace in the action plan must seem easier proposed than implemented. On the other hand, given the increasingly dangerous situation, particularly the escalation inherent in Mr Reagan's Star Wars project, the world has no alternative but to get together and unitedly opt for disarmament and peace. The starting point could be an international convention on banning the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons proposed in the Delhi Declaration. To recall the words of the late Olaf Palme, the time has come for the peoples of the world to assert that those who oppose disarmament and peace have no right to decide the fate of the present and future generations. As the declaration rightly points out, "the time for decisive and urgent action is now."

PATRIOT on Pakistan-U.S. 'Military Alliance'

BK091718 Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 Nov 86 p 4

[Editorial: "More on an Unholy Axis"]

[Text] We have already noted the extraordinary expression of an extended U.S. commitment of military relations with Pakistan that came on the eve of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's current visit to India. The statement by an American official, marking a brazen departure from the fraudulent Washington formulation about external aid for Islamabad's muscle-binding and flexing being not anti-India, has been followed by further revelations that compel attention no less. These are notable not only as ample confirmation of the thrust of the Pak-American partnership but also as added indication of the price the Reaganite power extracts for its solidarity with the Ziaul Haq military dictatorship.

The latest bunch of disclosures from prominent analyst Selig Harrison lay bare again both these aspects of what is now a full-fledged military alliance, short as it may fall of a formal status. The speciousness of the plea about U.S. military largesse for Pakistan not being directed against India has been clear even from the nature of weaponry that has formed part of the package and that could be of no use in the Afghan terrain. Now comes Mr Harrison's finding that the AWACS offer to Islamabad is the result of the latter's insistence on getting an airborne early warning system capable of covering India. The even more outrageous dimension of the axis to be brought into light, however, concerns the Pakistani quid pro quo. By providing ground-based electronic intelligence facilities to the warmongers of Washington, the Zia regime has not only placed its territory at the service of the anti-Soviet world camp but sought to push ahead belligerent preparations against India. The deal carries considerably forward a long-established collaboration in espionage and escalation of threats to the peace-loving nations of a whole region.

What all this together amounts to is a new stage in an old alliance, directed in general against peace and stability in the region and specifically against the country that has stood up most consistently and effectively for these imperatives. Together, it raises questions again about the claim to the nonaligned status of a puppet state that has violated the most fundamental tenets of the movement it has been allowed to infiltrate by going to the extent of providing military bases on its territory to the most rabid of the world's warlords. And, the heightened anti-India axis brings into focus, once again as well, the task ahead of countering a growing peril that faces not this country alone.

Opposition Demands Resignation of Ziaul Haq

BK081656 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] In Pakistan, the opposition Movement for Restoration Democracy [MRD] says that wrong foreign policy has turned the country into a client state of the United States. At the conclusion of the 2-day deliberations in Lahore last night, the Central Action Committee of the MRD appealed to all political parties to make joint efforts to save the country from becoming a battlefield for the superpowers. It also demanded the resignation of General Ziaul Haq.

The meeting was attended by Miss Benazir Bhutto and other top opposition leaders.

Karachi Reports on Foreign Secretary in Moscow

BK090225 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Abdus Sattar, now on a visit to the Soviet Union, had talks with Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov in Moscow yesterday. A spokesman of the Pakistani Embassy said they exchanged views on the latest efforts for a peaceful negotiated settlement of the Afghanistan problem.

Pakistan's foreign secretary is expected to meet the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today.

Junejo Briefs Parliament on Border Situation

BK091639 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] A special meeting of the federal cabinet and members of the National Assembly belonging to various groups representing all shades of opinion was held in Rawalpindi today. The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, who presided, briefed the members with the current situation on the Pakistan borders arising out of the exercises by the Indian forces. The prime minister assured that the government is taking all measures regarding the defense of the country. He said that the government is fully capable to discharge its duties in defending the country's frontiers. Similarly, the Armed Forces are fully aware of every situation and prepared to defend every inch of its land.

'Close Watch' Said Being Kept Over Borders

BK091723 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Excerpts] A special meeting of the federal cabinet and members of the National Assembly belonging to all groups was held in Rawalpindi today. The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, who presided, briefed the members with the current situation on the Pakistan border. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Chaudhry Shujat Hussain told editors in Islamabad that although the government is concerned over a large-scale military exercise by India very close to Pakistan's borders, it is keeping a close watch at the country's borders and is ready to face any situation. The federal minister said Mr Rajiv Gandhi has assured Prime Minister Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo that these are routine military exercises conducted by India. The information and broadcasting minister said that the government will keep the people apprised of all developments and will take them into confidence on every matter. He reaffirmed the government's determination that it will remain committed to the policy of strengthening the democratic process in the country with the cooperation of the democratic-minded people.

Economic Growth Rate Termed 'Impressive'

BK061630 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1600 GMT 6 Dec 86

[Text] The annual report of the state bank for the fiscal year says Pakistan's performance over the last 5 years in respect of economic growth and price stability compares favorably with average of nonoil producing countries. The rate of GDP [gross domestic product] growth has been 7.5 percent, and is better than the rate of 6.1 percent for developing countries in Asia. Along with this impressive growth, the inflation rate has also been reduced. Total investment rose by 16.7 percent in 1985-86 as against 13.5 percent in the previous financial year. The report also says the country's exports rose to $2,939 million during the last financial year from $2,457 million in the preceding year.

'Torture' Shows Afghans Far From Settlement

BK050335 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
20 Nov 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Torture in Afghanistan"]

[Text] The international human rights organisation Amnesty International, has in a 51-page report given details of torture practised in Afghanistan. The report says that the sites of the torture in Kabul are two state information centres operated under the overall supervision and control of KHAD, the Afghan secret service. Executions of captives have been reported. Even women have not been left unspared. To rub in the horrors, some of them have been locked in dark cells with the corpses of other victims.

Amnesty has said that in some instances Soviet personnel has been involved in the torture. Despite limited access, Amnesty was able to piece together a report depicting a regular pattern of torture including those of government officials, teachers, students, shopkeepers, etc.

There can be little hope for Afghanistan if the ruling party, in concert with its Soviet backers, resorts to inhuman methods to break the will of the resistance to the current regime. It serves notice that the problem of Afghanistan is still far from settlement.

Economic Cooperation Talks With USSR Open

Iravani Addresses Session 9 Dec

LD091238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Following the arrival of a high-ranking economic delegation from the Soviet Union, the 10th session of the Permanent Committee for Economic Cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union, cochaired by Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Iravani and Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Fedorovich Katushev, opened at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, in Tehran, this morning.

The talks are being attended by the ambassadors of the two countries; under secretaries and officials of the Iranian Ministries of Finance and Economic Affairs, Oil, Energy, Commerce, Roads and Transport, Foreign Affairs, and the Central Bank of Iran; under secretaries of the USSR Ministries of Gas Industry and Power and Electrification; officials responsible for economic cooperation with Middle Eastern and Western European countries; and officials of the Soviet Embassy in Tehran. The talks will continue until Thursday, when the signing of a new protocol on economic cooperation between the two countries is expected. During this period, the Soviet economic delegation will also meet and hold talks with a number of Iranian ministers and high-ranking officials.

During the first round of the talks, the heads of the delegations of the two countries described the background of economic and commercial ties between the two countries and the grounds for economic and technical cooperation between the two sides. They declared their views on mutual relations and cooperation.

In a speech during the session Finance Minister Iravani said: We consider the arrival of the Soviet economic delegation in Tehran and the holding of a new economic session a positive step in the relations between the two countries. We believe that it opens the way for future sessions.

Describing the principles of Iran's foreign economic policy, he said: Iran and the Soviet Union are neighboring countries with long common borders and many other common denominators, which encourage friendly relations. He added: Since the start of the sessions of the Permanent Committee for Economic Cooperation between the two countries, a number of agreements have been signed between the two countries, resulting in the creation of industrial installations, a steel mill, machinery manufacturing, power stations, and various silos.

The finance minister referred to the role of the Soviet Union as one of the major buyers of Iran's traditional goods, including dried fruit — which at one time held the highest position in this respect — and the commercial trade between the two countries, which after the Islamic Revolution in 1981 reached a peak of roughly 1 billion but then declined. He also said: The talks between the two countries' experts during the past 6 months have solved problems relating to the steel mill, power stations, technical cooperation, and the joint use of the two countries' common waters.

Regarding the future of the economic relations between the two countries, he proposed that the issue of transport, especially regarding the formation of a joint shipping company in the Caspian Sea, the transporting of passengers between Bandar-e Anzali and Baku, truck traffic between Iran and the USSR, and the commencing of flights by the Soviet airline to Tehran should be symbols of the economic relations between the two countries.

The finance minister also declared our country's willingness to start talks on establishing scientific and industrial cooperation, especially regarding the prevention of pollution and the lowering of the Caspian Sea. He expressed the hope that the export of gas to the Soviet Union and the transport of gas to European countries via the Soviet Union would result in the expansion of cooperation and technical relations between the two countries, and that, considering the necessity and willingness to expand technical and economic cooperation between the two countries, problems resulting from the fact that the Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation between the two countries was not held during the past 6 years would be solved.

Finally, he expressed the hope that the 11th session of the committee, which will be held in the future, would pave the way and determine the form of future relations between the two countries.

According to our correspondent's report, at the start of the 10th session of the Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation between Iran and the USSR, Mr Katushev, the head of the Soviet delegation and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, expressed satisfaction over the resumption of the sessions of the Iran-USSR economic committee. He said: The two countries consider the fact that the committee sessions were not held during the past 6 years as abnormal and contrary to the interests of the two sides. It is a cause for gladness that Iran gives priority to the expansion of relations with the Soviet Union.

He also stressed the importance of the relations between the two countries based on good-neighborly relations, equality, and mutual respect.

Majlis Speaker Meets Katushev

LD091840 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Katushev, together with the delegation accompanying him, met and had talks with Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Hashemi-Rafsanjani, this afternoon. During the meeting Mr Katushev, emphasizing good-neighborly bilateral relations and calling for the principles of equality, mutual respect, and noninterference in each other's affairs, said that the Soviet leaders attached special significance to having relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: We are for expanding relations and wish to extend these in all areas. He expressed the hope that thanks to efforts by the two sides' officials, bilateral relations would progress step by step and that the existing obstacles would be removed one after another from the path.

During the meeting the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, while expressing thanks for the desire shown by Soviet responsible officials to strengthen and expand relations and remove any obstacles, expressed the hope that they would seriously attend to strengthening and activating the two countries' relations and would act seriously in accordance with the contents of the talks between the delegations.

Referring to the recent events in the United States and the West in connection with establishing relations with the Islamic Republic, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Recently you have heard only too well the reaction of the Americans and you are aware how anxious the Americans and British are to establish relations and normalize the situation between us. You have seen for yourselves how we have responded to them! The problem of Mr McFarlane is an unprecedented one in their history and in U.S. foreign relations. Though bearing messages and gifts from Mr Reagan he was not able to find a single official here who would talk to him and Mr McFarlane said: "Had I gone to Russia for trade, Mr Gorbachev would have spoken to me three times!" U.S. officials, whether Republicans or Democrats, despite their differences, accept the philosophy of having ties with Iran and are prepared, should we show any flexibility, to solve even our arms problems. Nevertheless, we decisively rejected that, and without having any official talks or receiving the monies we have in the United States, we agreed to contacts only as far as interceding for the hostages in Lebanon goes. The British are constantly dispatching emissaries to us in an effort to raise the level of relations with us.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly then said: Unfortunately the responsible authorities in your country for reasons unacceptable to us are acting in a different manner. Why do you embark on strengthening Iraq despite the fact that you know it is the aggressor country, so that it can try to weaken a strongly anti-imperialist country?! When you see that Iraq is acting contrary to all international standards, how can you assist it so that it can harm Iran's popular and anti-imperialist revolution?!

Unfortunately, in connection with our recent reaction to the United States, you in your mass media conveyed this problem in a manner as if Iran, as it were, wished to prolong the war at U.S. behest, when it was right and proper that you in your mass media should have referred to this move by us as a great victory scored by a Third World country!

In connection with the Afghanistan problem Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said: In connection with Afghanistan, which is your problem, we have been willing to cooperate so that Afghanistan could remain as an independent country and so that Westerners would not be there! We have put forward this issue in a friendly manner as we do not wish to turn it into a political move, but you with your political presence there are unfortunately complicating the issue. We are desirous of seeing Afghanistan a free and independent and anti-imperialist country with a government emerging there in accordance with the wishes of the majority of Muslims in that country!

In conclusion the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said: If you really have a message for expanding relations kindly do be serious and rest assured that the Islamic Republic in that case would be fully prepared for expanding relations!

Mining Minister Talks With Katushev

LD091724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] This afternoon the chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, accompanied by that country's ambassador, met and conferred with Minister of Mines and Metals Ayatollahi. In the course of this meeting, the mines and metals minister approved the logical and balanced continuation of technical and economic cooperation between the two countries and stressed the significance and the need for removing problems encountered in the first phase of expansion of the Esfahan steel mill for a speedy realization of the planned production capacity.

The head of the USSR economic delegation gave a favorable promise on solving and removing the problems and it was agreed to review and study details of the affairs more carefully during his stay in Iran and in separate meetings of the USSR delegation with the responsible officials of the Iranian national steel company and other departments of this ministry.

Khamene'i, Katushev Meet 10 Dec

LD101148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] This morning President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i received Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Katushev who has come to Iran at the head of a delegation to attend the 10th session of the joint Iran-USSR commission. During this meeting, which was also attended by Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Iravani, and the two countries' ambassadors, Mr Katushev, referring to the useful and constructive talks that he has had so far on political and economic matters, welcomed the new economic agreements and told the president of the desire of his country's leaders to further expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and to increase cooperation in every field. He said: The USSR leadership attaches high importance to improvement of the two countries' relations.

Mr Katushev presented a detailed report to President Khamene'i on recent talks between Mr Gorbachev and India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, and also on the Reykjavik summit and the outcome of the Iceland talks. He criticized the U.S. ambition of seeking military superiority and referred to the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in achieving solidarity with the progressive powers in the region as highly significant.

Afterward, President Khamene'i, emphasizing the need to continue such visits to further expand relations and improve the two countries' ties, said: The existing common points between Iran and the USSR make it more possible in practice to expand and develop these relations. Therefore, the two sides' efforts in this connection should be increased as much as possible.

Emphasizing that the people of Afghanistan should determine their own fate, Mr Khamene'i said: The problem of Afghanistan will not be solved unless an independent regime is set up in Afghanistan relying on its people.

Referring to the strong and rational views of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the imposed war, the president said: Our views on the war issue are firm and rational and we believe that anyone who listens to our views would appreciate the righteous stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this imposed war; and it is by relying on these views that we have announced that we shall end this war with victory, God willing.

Economic Minister Meets Katushev

LD101507 Tehran IRNA in English 1446 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 10, IRNA — Expansion of Tehran-Moscow cooperation particularly in the field of joint construction of a dam over the Aras River was discussed in a meeting between visiting Soviet Chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations Konstantin Katushev and Energy Minister Mohammad Taki Banki here Wednesday.

During the meeting Banki welcomed the Soviet policy in promoting economic and technical cooperation between the two countries and called on the Soviet Union to start and complete its commitments quickly according to the already signed agreements.

Experts of the two countries also decided to study exploitation of the border rivers as well as the ebb tide of the water of the Caspian Sea.

Mr Katushev heading a delegation arrived here Monday [8 December].

Khamene'i on Agricultural Self-Sufficiency

LD071627 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 7, IRNA — Iran seeks to be independent because a country which needs imported wheat is not, said President Khamene'i here Sunday. Self-sufficiency is not a slogan but a realizable goal representing the values of the Islamic Republic, he added.

President Khamene'i made the remarks at a meeting with model farmers from throughout the country where he noted that the enemy's economic hegemony should be fought with the same vitality as its other forms of imperialism. He said that each and every Iranian should help the country in its quest to realize self-sufficiency.

Out of an estimated 50 million hectares of farmland in the country, only 15 to 20 percent is being cultivated, said the president. The message of the Islamic Revolution to other countries is self-sufficiency and independence. Iran calls on them not to allow themselves to be economically strangled by outside exploitative powers, he added. Elsewhere the president said the country's industries should work closely with the agriculture sector. It will be easier for Iran to export the revolution if other nations see that she has boosted her agricultural production and is self-sufficient in the area, Khamene'i noted.

On the Islamic Republic's political and military victories, the president said that the war was imposed on Iran at the time Iranian forces lacked knowledge of the weapons in its arsenal. The war was imposed on the country when the Islamic Republic was weak, but now the world knows that not only does Iran have the upper hand at the war fronts but also it is waiting for Iran to inflict the ultimate defeat on Iraq, said the president.

On Iran's victories in the political area, Khamene'i said that the great Satan (U.S.) along with its allies severed ties with Iran at the beginning of the revolution, but that today the White House is entreating Iran to resume relations with her. Its allies too, are racing to renew ties with the Islamic Republic, said the president.

Iran owes these victories to the devotion of the nation, said the president, noting that a nation which has achieved such outstanding successes, can also become self-sufficient in agriculture and other areas, once the will to do so is acted upon.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Agriculture

LD081908 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 8 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 8, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said here Monday that the agricultural potential of the country is capable of meeting the foodstuff requirements for a population several-times bigger than that of Iran.

Speaking to model farmers from throughout the country Hoj. Rafsanjani said that the country's rivers, can if properly exploited be used for irrigation, thus leading to the growth of this vital sector. Many water outlets of the country which merge with those of neighbouring territories like Iraq and the Soviet Union or the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf can also be exploited, said the speaker. A wise application of technology can route river water to the plains thereby boosting agriculture production and cattle breeding in these areas, the speaker said.

Hoj. Rafsanjani said in the past bullies, royal court officials, feudals, and the princes confiscated the choicest land for themselves while they lived in the capital or European countries. The post-revolution agricultural situation is markedly better than that of the past, the speaker said, adding that although some problems still exist, they are being solved. The speaker said that the country's agriculture potential as well as a good leadership and people properly directed, can all contribute to making the quality of life better for each and every individual in the Islamic Republic and thereby provide a model for other nations, which he said the enemies are frightened of.

Majlis Speaker, Montazeri View 'Issues'

LD101255 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 10 Dec 86

["Ayatollah Montazeri, Majlis Speaker Meet" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Dec 10, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani met with the spiritual leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, in the holy city of Qom, Tuesday night. During the meeting, the two sides discussed various issues of the country.

Charges Against Mehdi Hashemi 'Substantiated'
LD091724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Statement issued by Intelligence Ministry dated 9 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O you the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran, we are grateful to God for following the instructions of the imam of the nation to the Intelligence Ministry, ordering it to pursue the accusations against Mehdi Hashemi and other affiliated individuals. We can now announce that all the charges, except one, have been substantiated and in the course of the investigation it became clear that the previous accusations were only half of the offenses committed by them. The names of the nine fugitives accused are also announced as follows:

1. Amit Shahnavazi, alias Amiri;
2. Hoseyn Moradi;
3. Mohammad Hoseyn Ja'farzadeh;
4. Asadollah Shafi'zadeh;
5. Mostafa Mahdizadeh;
6. Fazlollah Rismankar;
7. Morteza Nilforushan;
8. Mas'ud 'Arabzadeh, alias Mo'tamedi; and
9. Mohammad Qasemi.

The martyr-nurturing nation is hereby asked to inform the security forces if they know anything of the whereabouts of the above-mentioned individuals.

Mehdi Hashemi Interviewed
LD092240 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] On Tuesday night, Mr Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi, during a 45 minute-long television interview carried by the 1st network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, provided explanations about the charges against him, the crimes attributed to him, and the course of his intellectual development. During the interview, he termed his motive for speaking an effort to clarify his deviationist actions as well as those of his sympathizers and also to tear the veil from a course of mounting errors and mistakes. He added [read by announcer]:

From the mid 1340's [1960's] I began my political activities and for various reasons the streaks of eclecticism permeated my being, so much so that I cast off the garb of the clergy and the essence of spirituality abated within me. This culminated in my falling prey to a series of errors and mistakes through which I was dragged into deviation.

In connection with his ties with SAVAK, he said: (?My mistake was) my flexibility in relation to SAVAK which gradually culminated in establishing contacts. This course finally reached such a level whereby I officially wrote to SAVAK and continued my collaboration.

In connection with the charges of murder attributed to him, Mehdi Hashemi said: Of the murders, one was connected with reprehensible deeds and prostitution pertaining to a woman and a man and the other was the murder of Mr Shamsabadi [former ayatollah from Esfahan]. I deemed that murder permissible because of my incorrect interpretations of Islam whereupon Ja'farzadeh, Shafi'zadeh and Ebrahimpur collaborated with me.

Continuing his interview, Mehdi Hashemi referred to his activities after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and said: After the victory of the revolution, due to the same extremist actions [as heard] and in view of the rivalries between the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the committee in charge of investigating security matters, I embarked on a course of seriously supporting the IRGC. In the end, these rivalries reached their zenith and resulted in clashes within these organs and certain casualties.

Admitting the taking away of large quantities of ammunition, explosives, and documents from the IRGC and the distribution of statements under the pretext of criticism, and culminating in deviation within society, he then referred to penetrating the religious seminaries, using the office of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri as a base. He then said: In view of the fact that the person responsible for the office was my own brother, that the illustrious canonist Grand Ayatollah Montazeri believed in me, and that we had friends within the office, and also in view of the fact that we also supervised face to face meetings with Montazeri, we abused the confidence placed in us by the illustrious canonist and such instances resulted in our subjective and groundless analyses to be attributed to the office of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri.

In conclusion, Mehdi Hashemi added: The sum total of all the deviationist factors that had grown within me prior to the revolution reached such a level that they violated the sanctity of the imamate and culminated in dragging small problems into deviations, deviations into gross deviations, and finally into standing up against the imam of the Islamic nation.

Montazeri's Bureau Rejects Remarks
LD101214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 10 Dec 86

[Text] Following Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi's remarks, broadcast by the radio and television of the Islamic Republic, the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri-Najafabadi's bureau issued a statement, announcing: Grand Ayatollah Montazeri-Najafabadi has graciously said: Mr Seyyed Hashemi had no role whatsoever in my bureau, in the schools affiliated with me, or in their timetable and management; and his remarks about these two issues are categorically denied.

Majlis Approves Free Delivery of Oil to Syria

LD092238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In today's open session of the Majlis the top priority [do-fowriyat] bill on the free delivery of 1 million metric tons of oil to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic was presented to the Majlis. The top priority bill was approved by the Majlis. [passage omitted]

Majlis Reschedules 'Entirety' of DPRK Debt

LD071717 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 7 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 7, IRNA — An act of parliament here Sunday has rescheduled the entirety of 170 million dollars owed to Iran by Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). According to the act DPRK's debt to Iran for oil purchases is to be paid back in equal quarterly installments over a period of five years and retroactive from the first day of January 1985.

For Iran's purchases from the DPRK during the five years of the repayment plan, the Islamic Government will pay 30 per cent of prices of Korean merchandise in cash and deduct the remaining 70 per cent from DPRK's debt to Iran. Minutes of the arrangements for the plan are to be formulated jointly by Iran's Central Bank and DPRK's foreign trade bank later on.

Meanwhile in the open session of the parliament Sunday Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his deep sympathy towards the families of the more than 100 civilians martyred and or injured in Iraq's bombardment of the city of Ahvaz Saturday and expressed hope that at some future time Iran's Muslim combatants would avenge the Iraqi attack.

Envoy in London on Briton's Arrest in Tehran

LD091924 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] London, Dec 9, IRNA — Iranian Charge d'Affaires to London Mahdi Akhunzadeh has told officials of the British Foreign Ministry that their waging a propaganda brawl about the arrest of British journalist Roger Cooper in Tehran would probably obstruct resolution of the issue. Akhunzadeh, who had been summoned to the British Foreign Ministry, was quoted as saying that the case does not come under the jurisdiction of the Iranian Foreign Ministry and that judicial officials are handling the matter. "I can only convey Britain's concern over the issue to Tehran", he was qouted as saying.

In an interview with IRNA here Tuesday, press advisor of the Islamic Republic Embassy quoted Akhunzadeh as telling British officials that "no one is arrested in Iran without due reason and that the Cooper case is not an exception."

On Britain's implicit threat that Cooper's continued detention would hurt Tehran-London relations, the advisor quoted Akhunzadeh as saying that he did not think so.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Sites Hit 8 Dec Still Burning

LD091740 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Dec 9, IRNA — Iraqi economic and military centers around the cities of Khanaqin, Mandali, Jalula, and Zurbatiyah are engulfed in flames and smoke as a result of the 48-hour Iranian reprisal shelling which ended Monday night. Iranian artillery fire on the Iraqi military and economic targets in these cities was in retaliation for enemy air raids on residential areas in Iran.

Meanwhile, more than 12 Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded and five enemy engineering vehicles destroyed in the Val-Fajr 8 operational theater in Al-Faw peninsula. Enemy road construction around the salt plant in this region was also halted.

Communique No 2,680

LD091552 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 9 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 9, IRNA — Exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops continued throughout the fronts Monday with the latter suffering substantial casualties and losses, said a military communique here Tuesday.

Communique Number 2,680 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and seven bunkers and observation posts together with one munitions dump destroyed in the western fronts by Iranian artillery fire Monday.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions Monday killing a number of enemy soldiers and devastating parts of their fortifications.

The military communique furthermore said that convoys of Iranian patrols gathered intelligence on Iraqi positions in Marivan operational theater, northwestern fronts, Monday setting afire an enemy motor pool. Several enemy vehicles were destroyed.

Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and a number of enemy bunkers and observation posts destroyed in the southern fronts in artillery duels with Iranian forces on Monday, according to the communique.

According to the communique, Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts Monday inflicting several casualties on enemy troops and destroying several bunkers and observation posts of theirs. Enemy engineering operations were also disrupted.

A convoy of Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Nahr-e Anbar, southern fronts, Monday sustained several casualties and was forced to flee under Iranian artillery fire.

Elsewhere, the communique said that Iraqi troops sustained heavy casualties and losses when Iranian artillery fire hit enemy motorized columns in operational theaters of Mimak, Badrah, and Mandali Monday.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked by Iranian anti-aircraft fire Monday.